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JPEG IMAGES ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.

**PARSONS DANCE LAUNCHES DANCE CELEBRATION'S 08-09 SEASON**  
***THE DANCEMAKER WITH THREE PHILLY PREMIERES***  
**OCTOBER 16-18, 2008**

PHILADELPHIA, PA – Hailed as “the uncontested wit and wizard of modern dance” (Chicago Review), the popular Parsons Dance launches the Dance Celebration 08-09 Season, October 16-18, Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, 3680 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA. The powerhouse program features three Philadelphia premieres choreographed by founder/artistic director David Parsons showcasing his witty, athletic and sizzling choreography. *Nascimento Novo* (2006) is set to legendary Milton Nascimento’s exotic Brazilian score. *Ebben* (2008) is a striking duet to Alfredo Catalani’s music from the opera *La Wally* and *My Sweet Lord* (2000), an ensemble work, captures the irrepressible spirit of George Harrison’s music.

Performances will take place on Thursday, October 16 at 7:30pm; Friday, October 17 at 8 pm; and Saturday, October 18 at 2 pm and 8 pm. Ticket prices are \$48, \$42 and \$38 (evening); and \$42, \$36, \$32 (matinee). Tickets may be purchased by calling the Annenberg Center Box Office at 215-898-3900, or by visiting [www.pennpresents.org](http://www.pennpresents.org). **Dance Celebration is presented by Dance Affiliates and Penn Presents. Its 27<sup>th</sup> season under the artistic direction of Randy Swartz salutes *The Dancemaker*.**

*Nascimento Nova* explores themes of sensuality and community. Lighting designer and longtime collaborator Howell Binkley creates a warm embracing environment for ten dancers to dart, slice and soar through creating structures and patterns that meet and disperse. The mid-section features two percussionists who interact with the dancers while accenting Nascimento’s astonishing score with Brazilian instruments in a style rarely heard outside Brazil.

*My Sweet Lord*, so titled from Beatles’ George Harrison epic hit song, was originally choreographed for The American Ballet Theatre where it premiered in 2002 at City Center in New York City. This fun-loving energetic company work comments on the spirit and times of the seventies. Set to Robert Fripp’s throbbing score, *Caught* (1982), Parson’s signature stroboscopic tour-de-force, features a solo dancer who appears to

be caught hanging in mid-air, stunning audiences with his/her weightlessness and illusion. The program also includes *Swing Shift*, a jazzy dance commissioned to celebrate the Bicentennial of the Louisiana Purchase to music by Kenji Bunch. *Swing Shift* speaks “to the history of the American people” (Culture Vulture) with a movement vocabulary that fuses Lindy slides, foot shaking, country swing and cotillion waltzes. Rounding out the program will be *Nascimento* (1990). Heralded as “one of the greatest musicians alive” (New York Times), Milton Nascimento created the score as a gift to Parsons Dance. This work for eight dancers is an exuberant tribute to the Brazilian spirit and the composer.

David Parsons was a leading dancer with the Paul Taylor Dance Company. He is a recipient of the 2000 Dance Magazine Award, as well as the 2001 American Choreography Award, for his work as a co-producer of *AEROS*, a production featuring the Romanian Gymnastic Federation that was featured on Bravo. His commissioners include: The American Ballet Theatre, New York City Ballet, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, the American Dance Festival, Jacob’s Pillow, the Spoleto Festival, Dance Celebration and Het Muziektheater in Amsterdam. His work has been performed by Paris Opera Ballet, Joffrey Ballet, Nederlands Danse Theatre, National Ballet of Canada, Hubbard Street Dance and Batsheva Dance Company.

Parsons Dance has a company of 10 full-time dancers and a repertory of 70 works that have been choreographed by David Parsons, 20 of which feature original commissioned scores by leading composers and musicians, including Dave Matthews, Michael Gordon and Milton Nascimento. Parsons Dance has collaborated with many other leading artists, including Julie Taymor, William Ivey Long, Annie Leibovitz, Donna Karan and Alex Katz.

Parsons Dance has local connections. University of the Arts Alum, former member of Junk and recipient of the “Best Performance in All Dance Forms” award, Patty Foster will make her Philadelphia debut with the troupe. Current University of the Arts senior, Stephen Vaughan is a dancer apprentice. Susan Glazer, University of the Arts Director of Dance, will conduct free a pre-performance talk, Friday, October 17 at 7pm, Annenberg Center.

In addition to the performances, the company will conduct a free master class, Friday, October 17 at 1pm and Student Discovery Series Performance for Schools Friday, October 17 at 10:30am. For Dance Celebration Outreach information, contact Dance Affiliates 215-636-9000 ext.110 or visit [www.danceaffiliates.org](http://www.danceaffiliates.org)

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